



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 141

TO: Monica Tonel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig, Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

Cc: Denise Mills, TAI – via Email

DATE: April 12, 2018

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 141 Month Ending March 2018

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – TAI received a letter from EPA dated March 2, 2018 providing approval for TAI to finalize the study data summary report (DSR). TAI finalized the DSR and delivered it to EPA and the of the project document distribution list on March 30, 2018.

Plant Tissue Study – TAI received a letter dated March 1, 2018 with EPA’s comments on the draft quality assurance project plan (QAPP) TAI submitted to EPA on February 1, 2018. TAI revised the QAPP in response to comments and submitted the draft final QAPP to EPA on March 22, 2018. At the time of writing, and after a teleconference on April 3, 2018 between EPA and TAI to discuss the addition of mercury analysis for certain plant species, TAI received a letter from EPA dated April 4, 2018 providing approval for TAI to finalize the QAPP. TAI is in the process of finalizing the QAPP accordingly. Plans were made during the month of March to begin sampling on April 25, 2018 pending TAI’s receipt of required permits and permissions.

Soil Amendment Technologies Evaluation Study (SATES) – TAI continued coordination with the SATES team and Kira Lynch, Superfund Technology Liaison – Office of Research and Development office of Science and Policy during the month and continued working on the draft DSR for the Phase 1A Test Plot Selection and Characterization. TAI expects to distribute the draft DSR for EPA and stakeholder review by mid-May.

Delineation Study – A call was held on March 2, 2018 with the TAI and EPA project managers and air modelling technical team members and to discuss timing and agenda for a technical meeting on the topic of air dispersion modeling. The meeting took place on March 13, 2018.

Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) Toxicity Reference Value (TRV) Development – A meeting was held March 6, 2018 at which TAI, EPA and the Participating Parties discussed soil, sediment and porewater TRV development and chemicals of potential concern refinement for the BERA. TAI submitted the interim draft Fish Diet TRV document to EPA on March 15, 2018 for review and comment. At the time of writing, TAI received a letter from EPA dated April 11, 2018 with comments from EPA and the Participating Parties on the interim draft Wildlife TRV document TAI had delivered to EPA on February 22, 2018.

Phase 3 Sediment Study – As a result of the informal dispute resolution regarding EPA's January 2018 letter defining the upper reaches of the riverine portion of the UCR Site as a separable operable unit (OU) and attached Level of Effort (LOE) for Nature and Extent of Sediment Contamination in Upper Reach OU, TAI prepared draft data quality objectives (DQOs) for five elements of a proposed Phase 3 Sediment Study and submitted to EPA for review on March 22, 2018. A meeting was held with the EPA and TAI technical teams on March 22 and 23, 2018 to review and discuss the DQOs. TAI submitted a draft meeting outcomes summary to EPA for review on March 29, 2018. At the time of writing, EPA provided edits to the draft outcomes summary on April 3, 2018 and TAI finalized the summary and submitted to EPA on April 12, 2018.

Draft Data Management Plan – TAI is in receipt of a letter dated February 16, 2018 with EPA's comments on the Draft 2010 Data Management Plan and received additional comments from EPA on February 28, 2018 via electronic mail. TAI is currently reviewing and evaluating the comments.

2010 White Sturgeon Sediment Toxicity DSR – TAI is in receipt a letter from EPA dated March 1, 2018 with approval to finalize the November 2015 draft final DSR. TAI is currently working to finalize the DSR and submit to EPA and the project document distribution list.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.